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## *The University of Dayton*

## *News Release*

### EX-MIAMI DOLPHINS FOOTBALL PLAYER TO DELIVER ANTI-DRUG MESSAGE AT UD

DAYTON, Ohio, February 5, 1988--Eugene Edward "Mercury" Morris, an ex-Miami Dolphins running back jailed on drug charges in 1982, will deliver an anti-drug message to students at the University of Dayton on Wednesday, Feb. 10 at 8 p.m. in the Boll Theatre. Free and open to the public, his speech is sponsored by UD's Student Government Association.

A Pittsburgh native, Morris attended West Texas State University from 1965 to 1969, where he received all-American honors. At West Texas State, he rushed for more yards than any other runner in the history of college football and received the nickname "Mercury." In 1969, Morris was drafted by the Miami Dolphins, where he started as a kick return specialist. He soon became known as the most feared man in the backfield, as Miami amassed a record 32 wins in 34 games. When Morris rushed for 1,000 yards in 1972, he earned a spot in professional football's Hall of Fame record books. He retired from the game in 1976 because of injuries.

Seven years later Morris was arrested, tried and convicted on charges of conspiracy and trafficking in cocaine and given a 20-year sentence. In March 1986, the Florida Supreme Court declared that Morris was not given a fair trial, and three months later he was released from prison a free man.

For the past two years, Morris has been seen on "Nightline," "The Today Show," "Good Morning America" and other national news programs to talk about his experiences and recovery.

For more information, call UD's Student Government Association at 229-4444.